

BWOA Won't Back Alioto's Zebra Manhunt

In an open letter to Mayor Alioto, Black Women Organized for Action (BWOA) stated, "We share your concern to quickly apprehend the Zebra killer, but we do not condone the suspension of civil and constitutional guarantees of young Black men. We understand that you state the Zebra dragnet is not white backlash, nor a racial issue, nor violation of civil liberties. However, by

stopping hundreds of pedestrians and motorists in the San Francisco Black community you are creating a police state. We urge you to meet again with leaders in the Black community in San Francisco and the press to deter any further harassment of Black people."

BWOA, a San Francisco Bay Area organization of 300 women rallied to the support of its member, Mrs. Idaree Westbrook, a leader

in the San Francisco Black community, when she withdrew her endorsement and support from the "Alioto for Governor" campaign because of his handling of the "Zebra" operation against Black men in their community.

Mrs. Westbrook publicly stated her "disenchantment with the Mayor and his intimidating, degrading and police - state methods against the Black community and denounced the use of such tactics which only cause further polarization between Blacks and whites, Mayor Alioto's complete disregard for the civil rights of Black men was a clear indication of the value he placed on the struggle of Black people for justice and equality. I further believe that his move was politically inspired and part of an effort on his part to get support of conservative and racist elements in the State of California.

BWOA is calling on Black voters throughout the state of California to support our stand against the candidacy of Mayor Joseph L. Alioto for Governor of our State. Our position supports the action taken by the San Francisco Black Leadership Forum on May 9 when it voted not to endorse Alioto for Governor.

BWOA is dedicated to developing a consciousness in Black women that politics is a 365 days a year activity, in which we must all participate if we are to survive and progress. Our commitment is to the total Black community.

